

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Submitted herewith is a replacement drawing sheet containing Figs. 6A-6C, in which Fig. 6C has been revised to add the reference character I to denote the indices on the scroll bars S and scaling bars P.

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1-5, 8-12 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art ("APA") of Figs. 5-6 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,581,678 to Kahn, and claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the APA in view of Kahn and U.S. Patent No. 6,411,274 to Watanabe et al. ("Watanabe").

In accordance with this response, Fig. 6C has been amended to add the reference character I to denote the indices on the scroll and scaling bars, and the specification has been amended to conform to the amended drawing and to make editorial revisions. No amendments to the claims have been made.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of his application.

By way of background, the present invention pertains to a graphical display adjusting system that enables simplified adjustment of scaling and selection of scrolled areas of individual graphic images (graphs, plots, etc.) relative to other graphic images which are all initially displayed at the same time on a screen. For example, Fig. 2 shows a screen on which graphs of several variables are displayed together with their axes identifying the data

corresponding to each graph. As is common, the data of each variable is plotted on the vertical (Y) axis and the variable, which in this case is temperature, is plotted on the horizontal (X) axis. By means of the graphical display adjusting system shown in Fig. 1, selected ones of the graphs shown in Fig. 2 may be manipulated such as shown, for example, in Figs. 4A-4F.

By way of example, the DTA graph shown in Fig. 2 may be moved to the center of the screen and presented in reduced size, as shown in Fig. 4A, by bringing the cursor of a pointing device 2 to the Y coordinate axis corresponding to DTA values and then clicking the pointing device thereby activating the scroll means 5 and the scaling means 6 in readiness for receiving a command from the pointing device 2 concerning the DTA graph. In this example, in order to display the DTA graph on the upper half of the screen, the scale width in the Y-direction must be halved, and thus the pointing device 2, which in this case is a wheel W of a mouse M, is rotated rearwardly to activate the scaling means 6 which performs a scaling operation and reduces the size of the DTA graph. By placing the cursor of the pointing device 2 on the DTA coordinate axis and dragging the axis upwards, the scroll means 5 moves in parallel with the movement of the cursor to

thereby move the DTA graph to the upper half of the screen, as shown in Fig. 4B.

In accordance with the invention, there is no need to display scroll bars S corresponding to the respective graphs or scale bars P as done in the admitted prior art (APA) of Figs. 5-6, which narrow the display area on the screen for the graphs and which are usually positioned close to one another which often results in misoperation. Moreover, when printing the graphical image on paper, the scroll bars and scale bars are unnecessary and reduce the size of the printed graphical display. Though it is possible to print only the graphical display and not the scroll and scale bars, this often results in the graphical image being shifted off center, or the aspect ratio of the selected print area being different from that of the graphical display on the screen. The present invention obviates these drawbacks by eliminating the need for scroll bars and scale bars and instead uses the pointing device for accomplishing scaling and scrolling functions.

Independent claim 1 recites a graphical display adjusting system comprising means for selecting one graph out of a plurality of graphs which are displayed on a screen by specifying a coordinate axis of the selected graph by a pointing device, and means for scrolling the selected graph by another operation of the pointing device. Independent claim 2

recites a graphical display adjusting system comprising means for selecting one graph out of a plurality of graphs which are displayed on a screen by specifying a coordinate axis of the selected graph by a pointing device, and means for displaying the selected graph in an enlarged or reduced scale by another operation of the pointing device. Independent claim 3 is a combination of claims 1 and 2. Independent claim 12 recites a graphical display adjusting system comprising means for selecting one graph out of a plurality of graphs which are displayed on a screen by specifying a coordinate axis of the selected graph by a pointing device, and means for temporarily eliminating one or more of the non-selected graphs from the screen by issuing a temporary elimination command by the pointing device specifying the axes of one or more non-selected graphs which are to be temporarily eliminated. The admitted prior art (APA) in combination with Kahn does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of these independent claims.

The APA discloses one graphical display adjusting system in Figs. 6A-6B (specification, page 2, first two paragraphs) and another graphical display adjusting system in Fig. 6C and Figs. 5A-5B (specification, page 2, last paragraph). The graphical display adjusting system of Figs. 6A-6B requires the inputting of start and end values for each

axis on the graph using a keyboard or the like in order to determine the scale of each axis, which is disadvantageous for the reasons described in the specification. To eliminate these disadvantages, the graphical display adjusting system of Fig. 6C and Figs. 5A-5B has been proposed, in which scroll bars S and scale bars P are displayed on the screen (Fig. 6C) and in which scrolling and scaling are performed by dragging and moving an index I of a scroll bar S or a scaling bar P corresponding to the graph to be scrolled or scaled. For example, when the index I of the scroll bar S corresponding to the DTA graph is dragged and moved upwards, only the DTA graph is moved upwards in a parallel direction, as shown in Fig. 5A. Similarly, when the index I of the scaling bar P corresponding to the DTA graph is dragged and moved downwards, only the DTA graph is displayed in a reduced scale, as shown in Fig. 5B.

The numerical gradations shown within broken-line rectangular areas in Figs. 5A and 5B are for explanatory purposes only and show the manner in which the numerical values of the graph axis change during scrolling and scaling operations. The coordinate axes corresponding to the graphs shown in Figs. 5A-5B and Fig. 6C are not on the scroll bars S and scale bars P but rather are on the display screen in the manner shown in Figs. 2 and 4. The scroll bars S and the scale bars P are, as shown in Fig. 6C, provided at both sides

of, and below, the graphs displayed on the screen and do not contain the coordinate axes of the graphs.

Thus the APA does not disclose a graphical display adjusting system having means for selecting one graph out of a plurality of graphs displayed on a screen by specifying a coordinate axis of the selected graph by a pointing device. Instead, the APA selects one graph out of a plurality of graphs displayed on a screen by specifying an index I of a scroll bar S or a scale bar P and then dragging and moving the selected index I by a pointing device to thereby scroll or scale the selected graph. The gradations located within the broken-line areas at the right-hand side of the screens shown in Figs. 5A-5B are independent of the scroll and scale bars and simply illustrate the numerical values of the Y-axis corresponding to the scrolled or reduced graph.

Accordingly, the APA does not disclose or suggest a graphical display adjusting system having means for selecting one graph out of a plurality of graphs which are displayed on a screen by specifying a coordinate axis of the selected graph by a pointing device. The scroll bars S and the scale bars P are not coordinate axes of the graphs. In response to the Examiner's contention that the scroll bars S and the scale bars P can also be considered as the axes of the graphs, applicant respectfully points out that the claims require

specifying a coordinate axis of the selected graph -- not any axis of the graph. It is clear that the scroll bars S and the scale bars P are not coordinate axes of the graphs.

The secondary references to Kahn and Watanabe do not cure the deficiencies of the APA. Clearly, Kahn would not have taught one skilled in the art to modify the graphical display adjusting system shown in Fig. 6C of the APA to eliminate completely the scroll bars S and scale bars P and to use instead a pointing device to select one graph out of a plurality of graphs displayed on a screen by specifying a coordinate axis of the selected graph. Watanabe has been cited for its teaching of a rotating wheel for enlarging/reducing an image on a display screen, and nothing in Watanabe would have led one skilled in the art to modify the APA to arrive at the graphical display adjusting system recited in independent claims 1, 2, 3 and 12.

With respect to claims 17-20, the Examiner contends that these claims recite a negative limitation and define the invention in terms of what it is not, rather than pointing out what the invention is. Applicant respectfully points out, however, that there is nothing inherently ambiguous or uncertain about a negative limitation, and negative limitations are acceptable provided the boundaries of the patent protection being sought are clear. See, MPEP §2173.05(i) and In re Barr, 170 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1971).

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-12 and 17-20 clearly patentably distinguish over the totality of the prior art. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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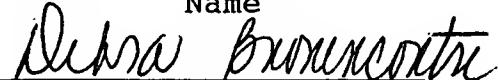
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November 14, 2005

Date